

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



HOUSE DEMOCRATS OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4100
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 12, 2015

Good afternoon co-chairs Representative Dargan and Senator Larson; ranking members Representative Zupkus and Senator Guglielmo and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 6969 An Act Concerning Swimming Pool Safety.

House Bill 6969 proposes two changes to the swimming pool builder's license, which can be found in CGS 20-340d. In section (1)(a), line four of the bill, which includes the definition of the term swimming pool as it relates to this section the word [partially] is removed. The intent of this change is to define swimming pools as, *"a permanent spa or any in-ground or above-ground structure intended for swimming that is greater than twenty-four inches in depth"*. Furthermore the change to this section requires licensure for the building of swimming pools both below and above ground.

The second proposed change to CGS 20-340d in House Bill 6969 is found in subsection (c), line fifteen; in which the bill removes [2012] and inserts 2016. This change requires the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations related to swimming pool builder's licensure by July 1, 2016, the regulations shall include, *"establishing the amount and type of experience, training, continuing education and examination requirements for a person to obtain and renew a swimming pool builder's license"*.

The reason for the changes is to allow for the inspection of pool installations whether they are above or in-ground pool installations. Local building officials are asking for this change since more and more of them are witnessing unsafe installations of above ground pools and they do not have any recourse to ensure compliance. The most prevalent safety hazards found are improper barriers and the installation of non-compliant ladders.

Licensing above ground pool installers will create a uniform set of standards for all pool installations, will provide an opportunity for local building officials to inspect above ground pool installations to make sure they are code.compliant and it will prevent potentially dangerous situations from occurring.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important proposal.